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DECEMBER 30, 1902.

Week ended December 27, 1902. Number of vessels inspected and issued bills of health, 16; crews of outgoing vessels inspected, 585; passengers of outgoing vessels inspected, 234; health certificates issued, 48; pieces of baggage inspected, 40; pieces of baggage disinfected, 4; pieces of express matter inspected, 11; pieces of freight inspected, 577.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

GERMANY.

Health of Berlin and weekly death rate.

DECEMBER 22, 1902.

Consul-General Mason reports as follows: During the week ended December 6, the death rate of Berlin was lower than that of the foregoing week, amounting to 15.5 per 1,000 of the inhabitants, but was thus somewhat higher than that for the corresponding week of last year, which only amounted to 15.2 per 1,000. Of the large German cities, Leipzig, Braunschweig, Hanover, Frankfurt-on-the-Main, Charlottenburg (with 12.8 per 1,000), and Schöneberg (with 8.8) showed somewhat more favorable statistics than Berlin, but Magdeburg, Dresden, Breslau, Hamburg, Cologne, Munich, as well as London, Paris, and Vienna, all had considerably higher death rates than Berlin in the week in question. There was a slight decrease in the number of deaths among children in their first year. The mortality rate among infants, 4.0 per 1,000, was but the half of that of Danzig, Stettin, Chemnitz, and Munich. Acute intestinal diseases were of somewhat more frequent occurrence during this week than in the first weeks of November, and caused 33 deaths. There was no change in the number of deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs, which claimed 66 victims during this week, among these being 4 deaths in consequence of influenza. There was, however, a decrease in the number of deaths from consumption, which amounted this week to 75. Cases of scarlet fever and of diphtheria were less frequent, the former causing 6, the latter 5 deaths. There was also a decrease in the number of deaths from measles, this disease claiming 5 deaths this week. Finally, 13 persons died by violence.

DECEMBER 24, 1902.

During the week ended December 13, the death rate of Berlin was higher than it has been since the beginning of June, amounting to 17 per 1,000 of the inhabitants as compared with 15.5 in the foregoing week, and was therefore higher than for the corresponding week of last year. In consequence of the almost general and considerable increase in the mortality, two-thirds of the large German towns showed less favorable sanitary conditions than Berlin. The increase in the number of deaths was far more noticeable among the higher age classes than among children in their first year. The death rate of Munich, Breslau, Cologne, and Leipzig was much higher than that of Berlin, while the mortality in Hamburg, Stuttgart, and Königsberg was higher still, the figures for the last two cities amounting to double those of Berlin. The health conditions in London, Paris, and Vienna were also considerably less favorable than those of Berlin. The mortality rate among infants rose from 4 in the foregoing week to 4.3 in this week, but thereby reached only the half of the rate in Stuttgart, Munich, Nuremberg, and Chemnitz. Acute intestinal diseases were of more frequent occurrence during this week than since the end of Octo-

ber, and caused 37 deaths. Cases of acute diseases of the respiratory organs were likewise more numerous, and claimed 71 victims. There were registered 4 deaths from influenza. Consumption caused 87 deaths, a considerable increase over the figures of the foregoing week. Cases of measles were more numerous, of scarlet fever less frequent, the former causing 6, the latter 4 deaths. The number of cases of diphtheria remained the same, 2 of them ending in death. Six persons died by violence, this being the lowest number of any week during the present quarter.

Plague and cholera.

BRITISH INDIA.—In Calcutta during the week ended November 15, 6 persons died of plague and 24 persons died of cholera.

Cholera.

TURKEY.—According to a report from Amman, dated November 25, there were registered on that date 13 new cases of cholera (5 among the railroad workmen and 8 among the inhabitants), with 8 deaths (2 among railroad workmen and 6 among the inhabitants).

According to the sixth official bulletin (dated December 2), regarding cholera in Palestine, there were registered between November 24 and November 30, in Jaffa, 135 cholera cases with 56 deaths; in Hauran, 42 cases between November 18 and November 28. In Sazkie (Djebli), according to a telegram dated November 25, there occurred during the last forty days, 200 cases of cholera with 70 deaths. According to the sixth bulletin, published up to December 2, there occurred therefore 192 deaths from cholera in Jaffa, 188 deaths in Tiberias, and in other places in Palestine 1,820 deaths from cholera, making a total of 2,200 deaths from this disease since the beginning of October.

Spread of tuberculosis and preventive measures against it.

[Extract from the Gesundheitsbüchlein, published by the imperial health office, Berlin, Germany.]

DECEMBER 24, 1902.

Since Robert Koch discovered the bacillus tuberculosis, much more reliable data has been obtained as to the way in which the disease is disseminated. Although it is well known that a predisposition to tuberculosis is transmitted from parents to children, and that an ordinary cold may prepare the way for phthisis, the cause of the infection is now generally sought in the transmission of living germs. It has been demonstrated that these germs pass out of the patients' bodies with their excretions (sputa, excreta from the bowels, etc.) and still retain their power of infection, so that the danger of conveying the disease still exists a long time after they have dried. These germs have been discovered in the dust of sleeping apartments and other rooms used by patients suffering with tuberculosis, and many cases of this disease have thus been traced from living with such patients or among the occupiers of dwellings formerly tenanted by them. It is now known that murrain, a common disease among cattle, is in reality tuberculosis, and it has, therefore, been claimed that the disease is spread among children by the milk of diseased cows.

In view of the above facts, it is advisable that the excretions of tubercular patients should be rendered innocuous; that the danger arising